

## Part I. INTRODUCTION

### Chapter I. Initial Remarks

In connection with the planning of the Yalu River river-crossing attack at the beginning of the Russo-Japanese War, General Tamemoto Kuroki, Commander of the [Japanese] First Army, in one paragraph of his instructions to his assembled staff, stated that, "In the military operations of the First Army, particularly the operations at the beginning of the war, if we do not act so that future historians cannot raise even one point of criticism, we should fail in our samurai duty. ... Since the plan was made with such care and logic, even if the worst should happen, that would not be a matter for regret; it would be divine will. ... and I ask that you perform so that future readers of history will judge that it was with complete dedication."

And France's famous military commander, Marshal Foch, said, "The art of war, like other arts, has its fundamental principles. If that were not the case, war would not be an art. War is learnable and is something that must be learned; it is an understanding of the true nature of war gained through extensive and intensive study of military history that is the basis for study of the art of war." Again, in regard to the principles of war, he also said, "There is a gap between knowing and having ability, but with absolutely no knowledge, it is not possible to move in a single jump to having ability. In contrast, if one has the knowledge, one can have the ability. Knowledge is a necessary condition. If one has knowledge, in a short time one would gain confidence, and confidence brings accurate decisions." These are wise statements presenting suggestions for both the East and the West concerning the principles of war and the development of capability with them; and, in general, for persons studying the art of war, they clarify the principles and rules of warfare (the so-called principles of war) and show the importance of knowing them and developing the ability to apply them.

Particularly for beginning students, it is believed that the essence of improving tactical capability is, first, studying these "principles of warfare" fundamentally and scientifically, then deepening one's understanding of the "knowledge," making this "knowledge" one's guide, accumulating "substantiating evidence" from "military history," developing this base for judgment (capability), and training and improving judgment (capability) through applied tactics (map and terrain exercises, war games, and field exercises).

This book has the objective, from the above viewpoint, of providing beginning students of tactics with deeper understanding of the principles of land warfare and with a basis for future improvement in tactical capability.

### Chapter II. The Essence of Warfare and the Characteristics of Land Warfare

#### 1. The essence of warfare

##### a. What is warfare?

War is a clash of opposing wills, a struggle between beliefs, and victory goes

to the party that crushes the enemy's will and destroys his beliefs.

In other words, the warfare discussed here is a struggle for victory, using "power" to cause the opponent's will to yield and our will to prevail.

Hence, "the essence of warfare" is "power" and its maximum use. Its objective is to crush the opponent's power of resistance and cause him to submit to our will, and its measures are to use power to destroy the opponent's fighting power (material, spiritual). In other words, it is nothing less than the seizure of victory.

#### b. The essence of warfare and its characteristics

The first essential element of warfare is the fact that, "in warfare, there are opponents." Moreover, both parties are characterized by having free will.

The second is that both parties have the will to overthrow the opponent (enemy). War is a struggle between the free wills of both parties, and victory is determined by which one has confidence in it. In other words, it also can be said to be a struggle of faith.

The third is that power is used to cause submission of the opponent's will. The direct instrument for fighting is "power," and when this power is brought to bear against the opponent, it is used for the violent effect of causing submission of the opponent's will.

The fourth is the actual battlefield situation, which is extremely important for our study of tactics and is a basic condition. The actual battlefield situation arises from the above essential elements of warfare and varies according to the time period, the place of combat, and the type and scale of warfare, etc.

The most important of these are that, in warfare, the situation always is uncertain, unstable, and unclear, and the normal state is that there is a succession of inconsistencies and mistakes, danger to life is ever-present, mental and bodily difficulties of fear, exhaustion, etc., are encountered, the situation does not develop as expected, etc.

In the study of the principles of war and in the study of tactics, if thorough consideration is not always given to the actual battlefield, one will end up in worthless speculation.

### 2. Characteristics of land warfare

a. In warfare, the essential role of land warfare (land operations) is the control of persons, and its instrument is the control of land.

Hence, the sphere of activity of land units is the land, and the characteristics of the land are the dominant factors governing the character of land warfare. Progress in science and technology contributes greatly to liberation from various limitations of the land, but has not reached the point of changing the basic nature of land warfare.

Also, in the operational environment of land warfare, there are various conditions that affect the handling of troop units and the will of the commander. The principal factors comprising these are national policy (politics, foreign relations, the economy, military affairs, social psychology, etc.), the zone of operations, opposing (enemy) forces, weapon systems, etc., but in this book are treated primarily only matters related to the principles of land-warfare tactics.

b. Natural characteristics of the land and their effect

The major elements in the natural characteristics of the land are terrain and weather. It is clear that terrain and weather are closely related to land warfare and that they control the nature of land warfare, but here the discussion is on the general characteristics; special characteristics of terrain and their effect are discussed in Part VII, Operations in Special Terrain, etc.

(1) Terrain, particularly the complexity and diversity of the surface of the earth

The land forms varied and distinctive terrain (regions) that combines various elements of topographic irregularity, the nature of the surface soil, the water system, the vegetation, cultural features, etc., and exerts great influence on land warfare. This effect, in the final analysis, is related to firepower and tactical movement; but it is not limited simply to physical influence, but also exerts great spiritual influence.

This effect, through field of view and of fire, trajectory, cover and concealment, ability to withstand bombs and shells, etc., aids or limits the use or effectiveness of firepower, and through the load-bearing capacity of the ground, obstructions, etc., favors or curtails the use of tactical mobility.

(2) Effect of weather

The amount of light, rain and snow, wind, temperature, etc., are related to the circumstances of the ground surface and affect firepower and tactical mobility, as well as exerting a close influence on the combat capability of personnel and the performance of equipment.

c. Characteristics of land warfare

(1) Characteristics of employment of land units

(a) Sluggishness and the fixed nature of operations

Because of the necessity for an uninterrupted link between the base of operations and the battle front and the sluggishness of movement, the shifting and concentration of combat power, change of direction of operations, etc., are sluggish. In land warfare, special consideration is necessary regarding the "importance of a unit," depending upon the unit's size.

(b) A region's absorption of combat power

Extending the battle line invites a gradual decrease in combat power (personnel,

materiel) because of maintaining of logistics, holding of terrain, etc., and is an important condition making the difference between the offensive and defensive.

(c) Increase in combat capability from the terrain

The value of terrain itself and of fortifications creates the possibility of defense or creates value as an attack objective.

(d) Enduring quality of combat power

The combat power of ground forces--except in cases of panic, the concentration of crushing force, etc.--does not collapse suddenly.

(e) The value of spiritual power is great

With the individual on the battlefield, the mental process at every instant governs the behavior of his entire body. In particular, the value of command and control is extremely high.

(f) Local independence in military operations (combat)

Military operations of large units also have an integrated character of combat in each independent locality.

(2) Organizational character of ground-force units

(a) Organization of essential elements of combat power into minimal units and the necessity for mass

In order to control a region, it is necessary to control localities. In order to organize the control of these localities, there arises the need for various types of firepower and equipment and various branches of service based in small units. And with the naturally limited, small numbers of elite troops, mass is necessary.

(b) Variety of mobile equipment and necessity for mass

Depending upon distance, or depending upon the characteristics of varied terrain to be traversed on foot, mobile equipment of various types and mass are required.

(c) Complexity and expanding nature of the logistical organization

In land warfare, logistics extends from the country's base of operations to the individual fighting man, and with operational conditions becoming complex and varied, expansion of the battle area, modernization of equipment, etc., its organization is complex and expanding. [End of subparagraph (c).]

In a word, the characteristics of land warfare are the source of the principles of war in land warfare, and in order to understand the principles of war, it is necessary to grasp the characteristics of land warfare.

### Chapter III. Meaning and Nature of the Principles of War

#### 1. What are the principles of war?

The principles of war are "the basic principles of combat in order to obtain victory and the fundamental rules that, to some degree, embody those principles." These are theories and are derived from many military histories. In other words, "the principles of war are theories formed dialectically from accumulated reasoning and corroborative evidence, and they are continually evolving with the passage of time." Hence, the principles of war discussed in this book were obtained up to about the end of World War II and cannot be described as unchanging for all times including the future or for all places.

However, when consideration is limited to matters of definite time and space, it is believed that the principles of war discussed in this book can be taken as principles and rules for victory. On the other hand, in the present situation where the importance of indirect aggression is increasing, one must not overlook the fact that the principles of war of World War II and earlier are reaching a developmental stage.

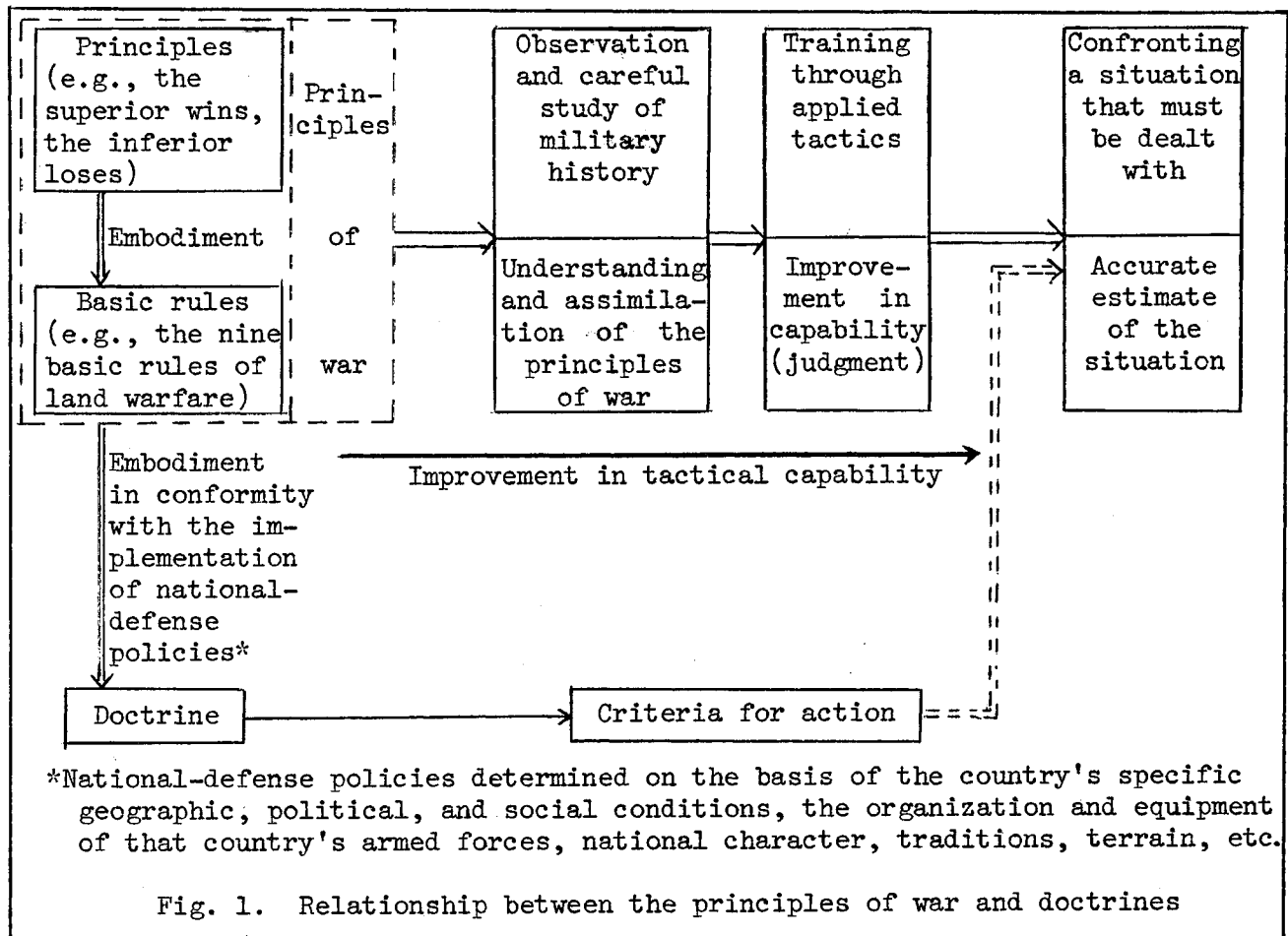
Also, in one sense, the principles of war are a standard for observing military history and cannot be applied directly in future situations. Only after knowing the principles of war, carefully studying and observing military history with them as a standard, and then improving one's capability (judgment) through applied tactics, etc., can one tackle situations and make accurate decisions. Only at that stage can it be said that the principles of war are completely usable.

#### 2. Relationship between the principles of war and doctrines

Doctrines are the guiding principles and the embodiment of basic rules for action that should be taken to embody and carry out national defense policies determined on the basis of the organization and equipment of the country's military forces, national character, traditions, terrain, etc., in the country's environment, that is, in the specific geographic, political, and social conditions.

Thus, although doctrines are not blindly observed, they must at least be followed. On the other hand, the principles of war are not applied directly but normally are a standard that should be used to improve one's judgment, not something that one should take along during tactical actions. In other words, doctrines are the direct basis for action, whereas the principles of war are an indirect thing and are put to use in military actions only through assimilation (improving one's power of judgment) by means of normal training applying them.

The relationship between the principles of war and doctrines may be shown graphically as follows:



## Part II. MEANING AND CHARACTERISTICS OF COMBAT POWER

### Chapter I. Meaning and Basic Principles of Combat Power

#### 1. The three factors of combat

Combat is governed by the following three factors:

ENERGY [POWER]--basic factor in striking the enemy

TIME--the natural phenomena of light and darkness, heat and cold, fair and rainy weather, etc., and timeliness

SPACE--character of the terrain and other natural phenomena, the spatial extent, and posture

These three elements are mutually interrelated and either strengthen or weaken energy, which is the essence of combat, and whenever energy is applied, they all are inseparably involved.

Even with the present developments in science and technology, the mutual